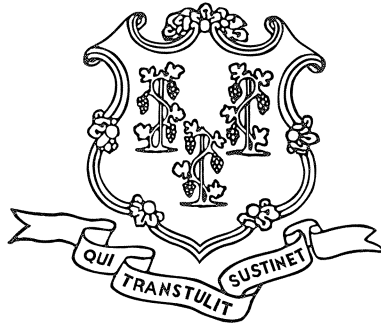


State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

## Official Statement

WHEREAS, the 2006 FIFA World Cup took place from June 9-July 9, 2006 in Germany; and

WHEREAS, during this time 64 matches were played in twelve host cities throughout Germany in order to determine which one of the 32 participating national teams would receive football's most coveted prize; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the 2006 FIFA World Cup group stages, Round of 16, quarter-finals and semi-finals only two countries would remain to compete for the right to call themselves World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2006 Italy and France were the final two teams remaining to vie for the 2006 FIFA World Cup Championship at Olympic Stadium in Berlin; and

WHEREAS, after a 1-1 draw the *Azzurri (Italy)* and *Les Bleus (France)* were forced to decide the winner in only the second penalty shoot-out in World Cup Final history; and

WHEREAS, Italian Fullback Fabio Grosso's kick gave Italy a 5-3 win in the penalty shoot-out and clinched Italy's fourth FIFA World Cup title; and

WHEREAS, the determination, athleticism and toughness displayed by Italy's 23 players and coach Marcello Lippi during the 2006 FIFA World Cup made Italy World Champions for the first time in 24 years; and

WHEREAS, this year's title added to the three other championships that Italy won in 1934, 1938 and 1982 puts them second to only Brazil for the country with the most World Cup Championships won; and

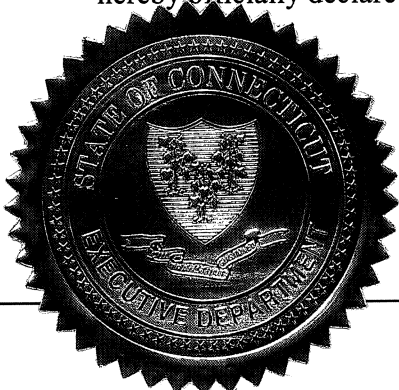
WHEREAS, the 2006 World Cup official motto; "A time to make friends," could not have been more fitting considering the 14 million people who attended the tournament and the billions of people around the world who gathered together to watch it on television, listen to it on the radio, follow it on the internet and read it in the newspapers; and

WHEREAS, today is a day of joy and celebration for the 58 million Italian citizens, in addition to the citizens of the world who have descended from Italian ancestry; now

THEREFORE, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, in recognition of the outstanding performance by the Italian National Football Team in the 2006 FIFA World Cup, hereby state "Viva i Campione del Mondo e viva Italia per il quarto titolo mondiale" and do hereby officially declare July 10, 2006, as

**AZZURRI DAY**

in the State of Connecticut.



  
Governor